

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ANKARA 05475 161414Z

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 ACDA-07 PM-04 L-03 NSC-05 CIAE-00

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R 161320Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4278

INFO USIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

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USIA PASS IOR/M, IPS ALLON, IEU

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, TU, CY, US

SUBJECT: TURKISH PRESS ON CARTER'S CYPRUS POSITION

1. A MAHR TURKISH DAILY, TERCUMAN, JULY 16 GAVE TOP FRONT PAGE PLAY TO A PURPORTED STATEMENT BY DEMOCRATIC PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE JIMMY CARTER ON CYPRUS AND ON THE US-TURKISH DEFENSE COOPERATION AGREEMENT (DCA. THE STORY SAID THAT CARTER HAD DECLARED THAT SUPPORT TO TURKEY AND GREECE WAS IN THE US INTEREST BUT THAT THE FORD ADMINISTRATION SHOULD HAVE LINKED THE DCA TO A SPEEDY SOLUTION OF THE CYPRUS PROBLEM.

2. THE TERCUMAN STORY CITED CARTER AS SAYING THAT THE FORD ADMINISTRATION HAD FAILED TO USE ITS INFLUENCE TO FIND A SOLUTION TO THE CYPRUS PROBLEM PRIOR TO THE COUP OF 1974, THAT IT HAD FAILED TO PREVENT THE COUP AGAINST MAKARIOS DESPITE WARNINGS, AND THAT IT HAD FAILED TO PREVENT THE TURKISH INTERVENTION. CARTER REPORTEDLY ADDED THAT WHILE THE US CANNOT IMPOSE A SOLUTION, THE TIME HAS COME TO OPENLY

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PAGE 02 ANKARA 05475 161414Z

PROPOSE A SPEEDY SOLUTION WHICH WOULD PRESERVE THE INDE-

PENDENCE OF CYPRUS.

3. THE TERCUMAN STORY WAS BASED ON A REPORT BY THE AKDENIZ NEWS AGENCY. THE AKDENIZ STORY WAS ALSO USED IN THURSDAY, JULY 15, EVENING TELEVISION NEWS BROADCASTS AND CARRIED IN SHORTENED FORM IN CUMHURIYET.

4. IN EDITORIAL COMMENT ON THE REPORTED CARTER STATEMENT, TERCUMAN SAID THAT IT CONTAINED BOTH POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE ELEMENTS. ON THE POSITIVE SIDE WAS CARTER'S ASSERTION THAT THE US INTEREST WAS SERVED BY SUPPORT TO TURKEY AND GREECE AND THE US COULD NOT IMPOSE A CYPRUS SOLUTION. BUT TERCUMAN DECLARED THAT CARTER'S VIEW OF THE DESIRABILITY OF LINKAGE BETWEEN THE DCA AND A CYPRUS SOLUTION DID NOT BODE WELL FOR THE PASSAGE OF THE DCA IN THE DEMOCRAT-CONTROLLED CONGRESS.

5. COMMENT: THE AKDENIZ STORY, WHICH WAS DATELINED ANKARA, MAY HAVE COME FROM SOURCES IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS. AN OFFICIAL OF THE MFA PRESS OFFICE (TULUMEN) TOLD AN EMBOFF THAT THE TURKISH EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON HAD REPORTED A SIMILAR STATEMENT. THE MFA OFFICIAL WAS NOT CLEAR ON WHETHER CARTER HAD MADE THE STATEMENT HIMSELF OR WHETHER IT APPEARED IN CARTER CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE OUTPUT. USIS HAS ASKED USIA IN WASHINGTON FOR CLARIFICATION OF SOURCE.

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